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An
Essay

on

Gastritis

by

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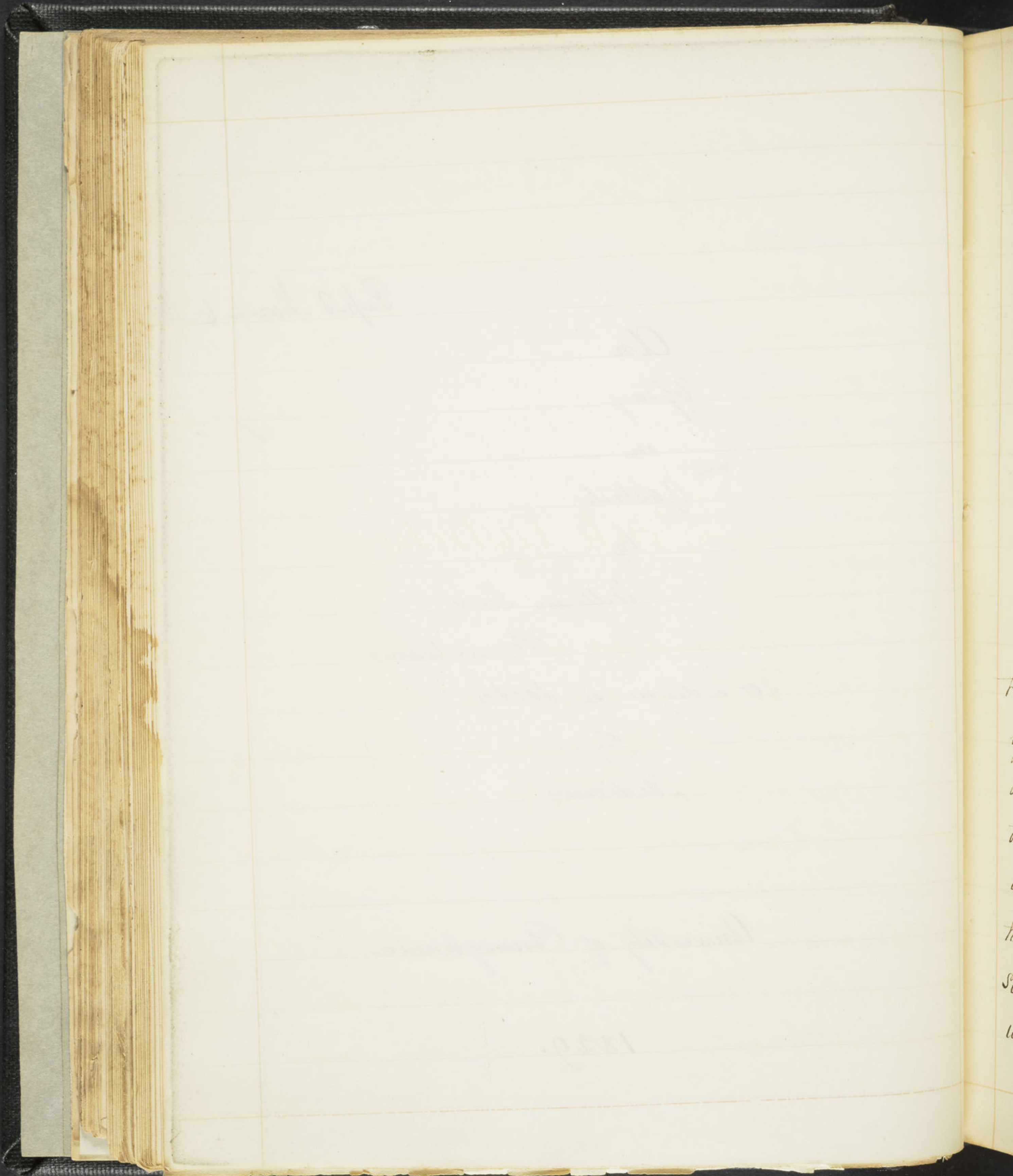
For a degree of Doctor

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Medicine.

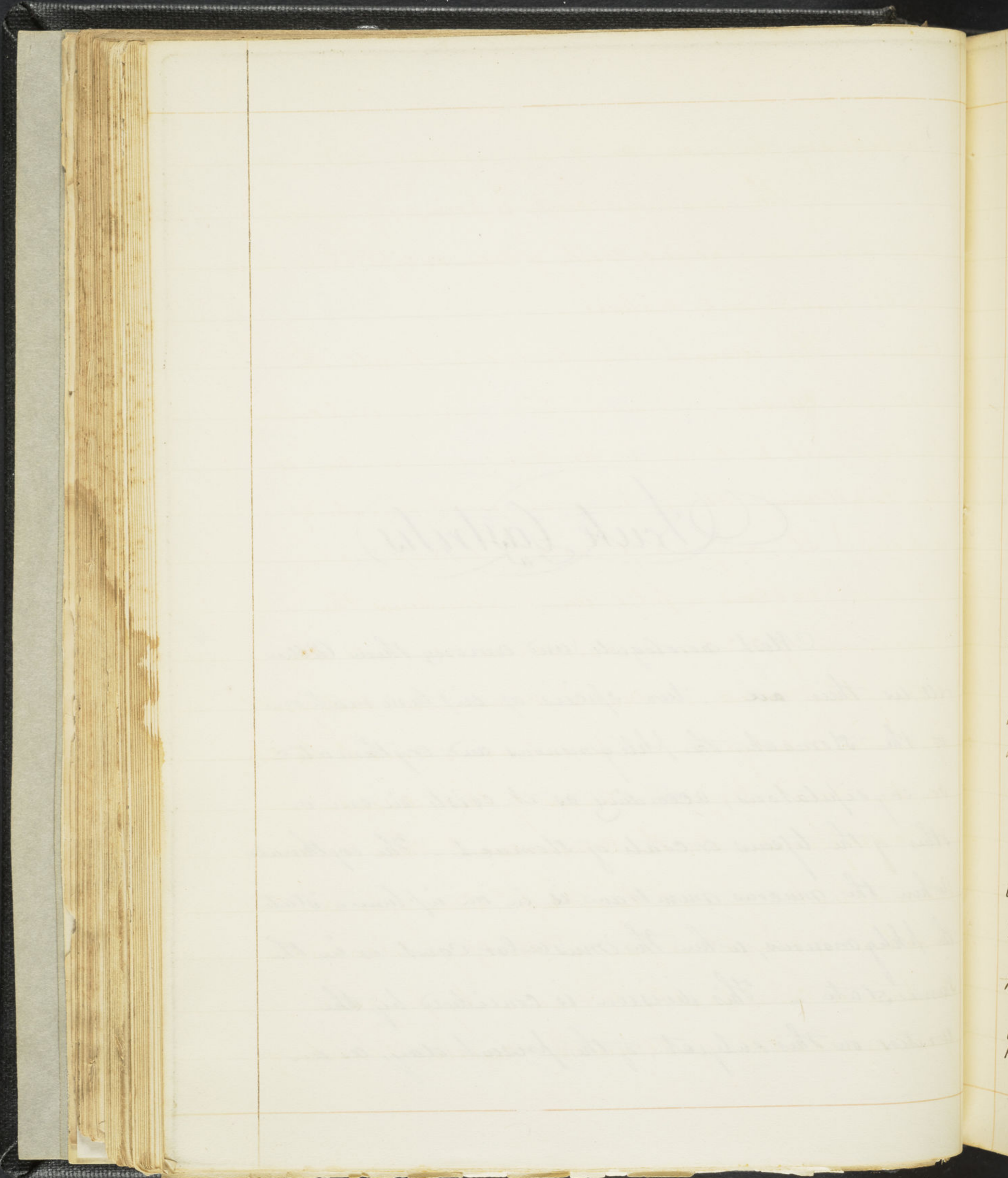
University of Pennsylvania

1829.



Acute Gastritis.

Most morologists and among them Cullen tell us there are two species of inflammation of the stomach; the phlegmonous and erythematic or erysipilaceous, according as it exists in one or other of the tissues or coats of stomach. The erythematic when the mucous membrane is in an inflamed state the phlegmonous, when the muscular coat is in the same state. This division is considered by the writers on this subject, of the present day, as an

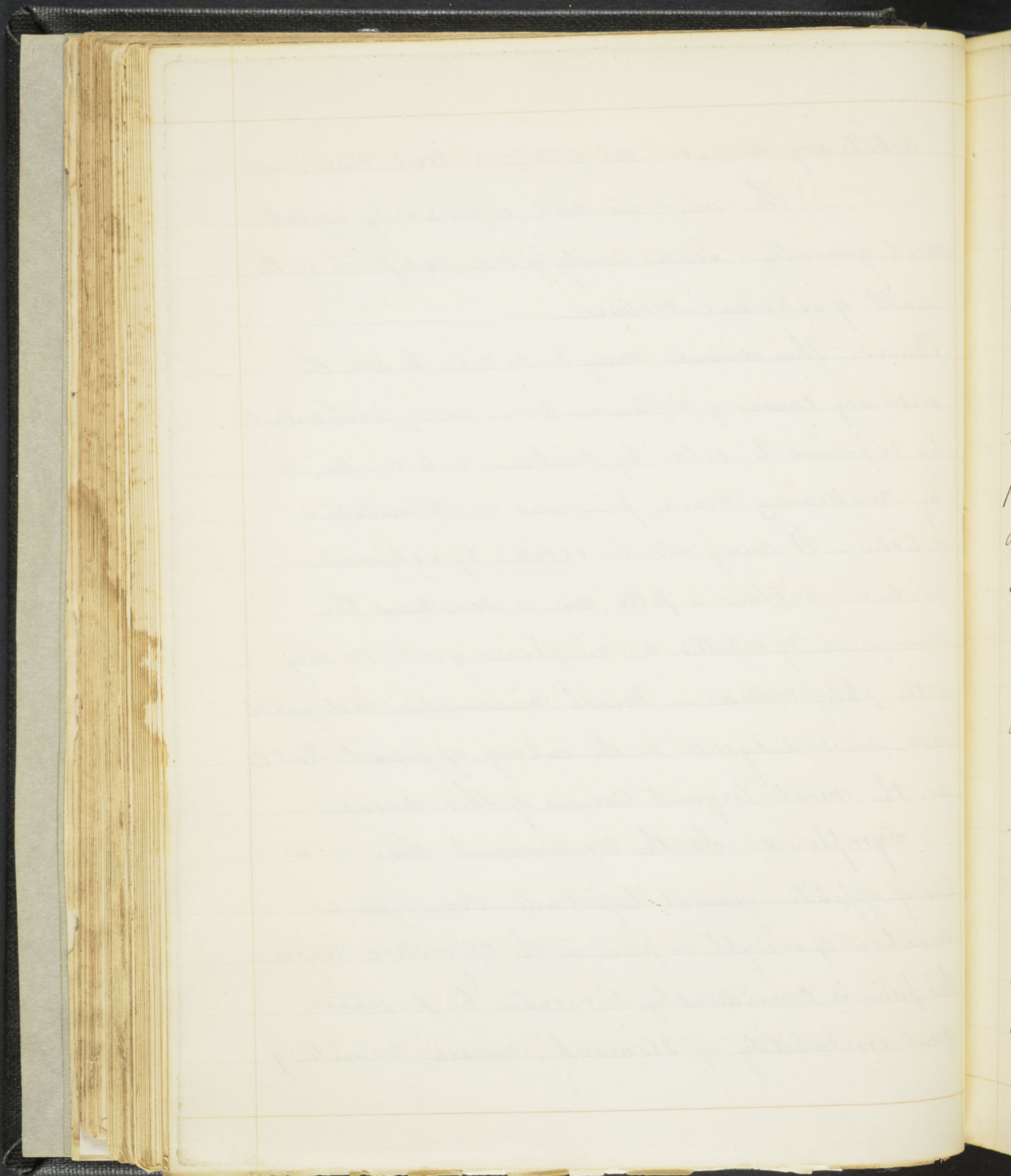


arbitrary division, and of no practical use. —

The mucous coat is primarily affected most generally — serous, rarely if ever, except it is the result of external violence —

Causes. This disease may be excited by all the ordinary causes of inflammation; more particularly by exposure to cold, by drinking cold water, or by swallowing acid, poisonous or stimulating articles — It may also be excited by external violence, as blows or falls, and is sometimes the consequence of repelled or misplaced gout, or any of the phlegmasia — Marsh miasmata, indigestible food, and indulgence in the taking of fruit &c. &c, are the most frequent causes of this disease —

Symptoms. In the commencement, there is a loss of appetite, general lassitude, soon after a sensation of weight or pain in the epigastric region this pain is considerably increased by pressure. great irritability of stomach, nausea, vomiting



& thirst - and in the more advanced stage tension about the umbilical region -

The general symptoms consist in headache pain extending over orbits of the eye, a sudden prostration of strength - (This last symptom shows the effect of the sympathy existing between the stomach & the rest of the animal economy) - The skin is dry & hot; the pulse from the very commencement is small, corded and not very quick - Cases occur where the pulse is but slightly disturbed -

This disease generally runs its course rapidly and if not arrested by medical agents, all the above enumerated symptoms are aggravated - These are attended with spasms & colicky uneasiness - sharp lancinating pains, pulse hard and corded the head affected, and countenance emaciated

The prostration of system is so great, that frequently when the patient is raised in bed, he faints - added to all these we have, cold extremities, a moist cold

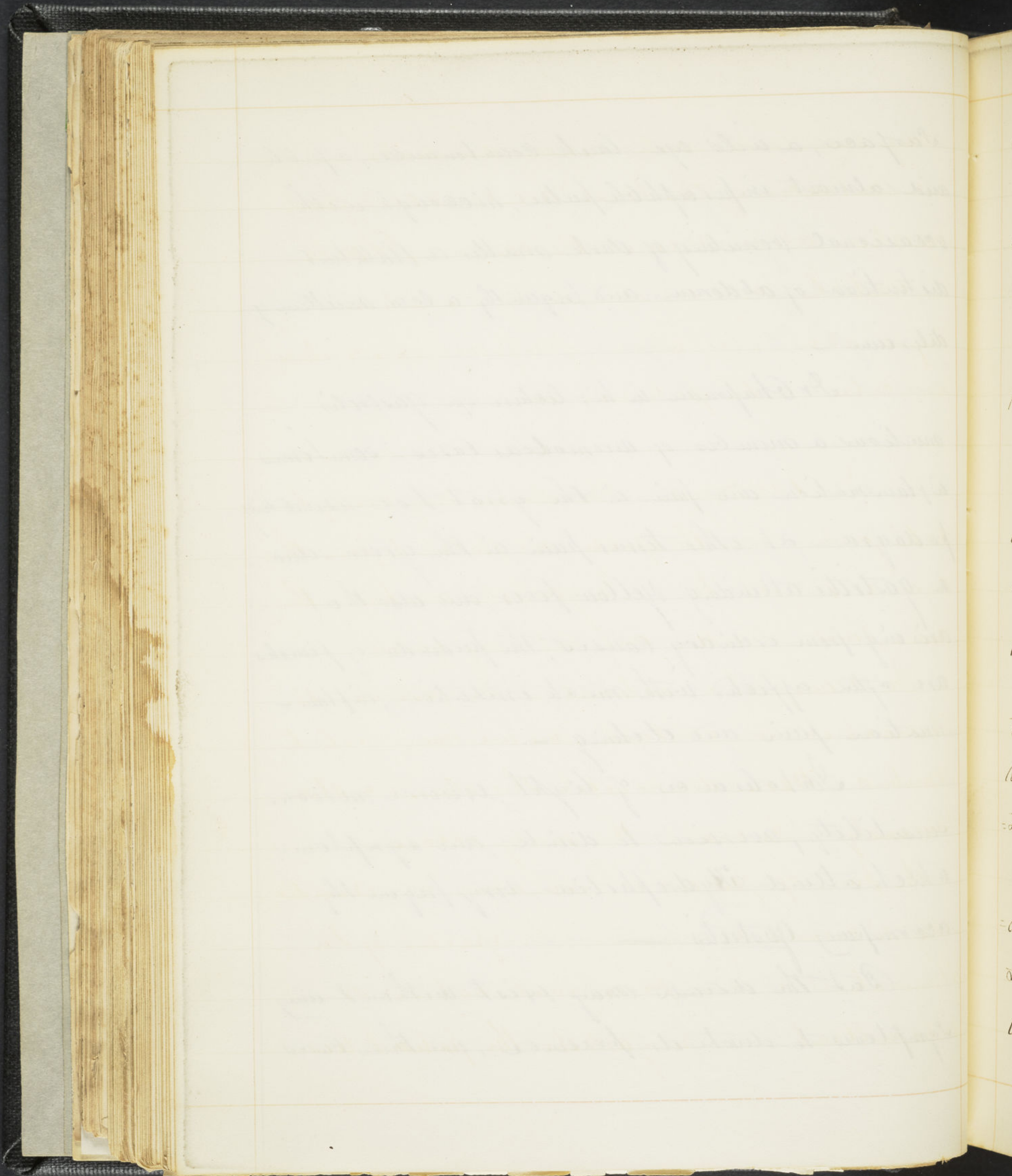
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Surface, a wild eye, sunk countenance, a full and almost imperceptible pulse, hiccough, with occasional vomiting of dark matter, a flatulent distention of abdomen, and frequently a low muttering delirium -

Dr Chapman in his lecture on Gastritis mentions a number of anomalous cases - sometimes inflammation and pain in the great toe resembling podagra - at other times pain in the groin - and in gastritis attending yellow fever, and also that arising from ordinary causes, the pudenda of females are often affected with much irritation, inflammation pain and itching -

Intolerance of light, extreme nervous sensibility, aversion to drink, and symptoms which attend Hydrophobia, very frequently accompany Gastritis -

But the disease may exist without any symptoms to denote its presence, and these cases



may run on to mortification and death —

Instances of this kind are on record, and dissection alone revealed the cause of Death.

Gastritis may terminate by resolution, suppuration, ulceration, gangrene, or scirrhosity particularly of the pylorus. —

Diagnosis. This disease may easily be distinguished from the spasmodic and flatulent pain this organ is subject to — In gastritis we have the pulse, small, chorded and not very quick —

In cramp it is natural — In gastritis, the stomach is very irritable, and we have violent vomiting — Warm drinks excite this almost instantaneously — In cramp this rarely occurs —

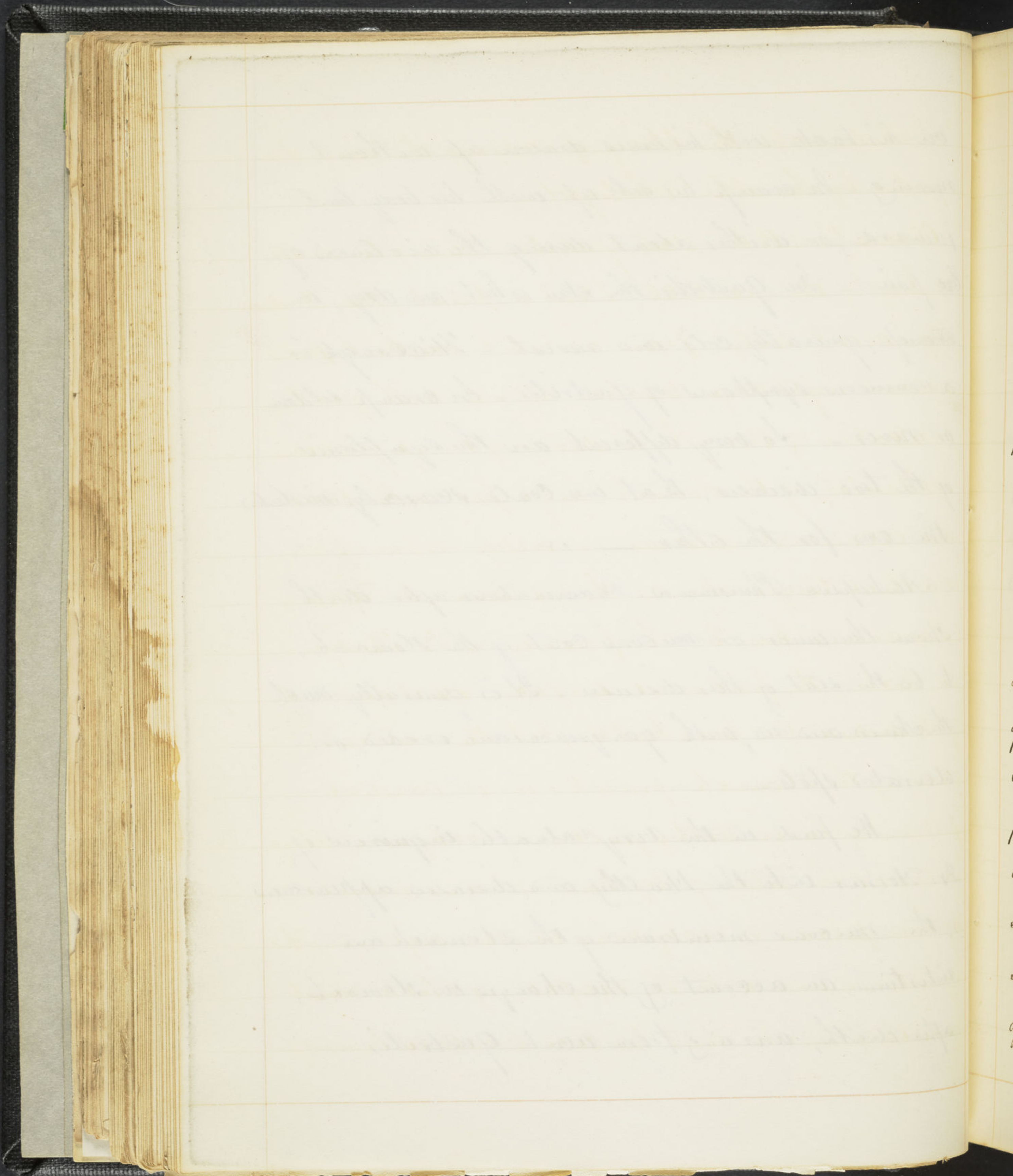
The pain of gastritis is continuous, and considerably increased by pressure — In spasms of the stomach it is of a paroxysmal nature or intermittent — In gastritis the patient lies



on his back, with his knees drawn up, without moving - In cramp he sets up with his body bent forward, or writhes about during the violence of the pain - In Gastritis the skin is hot and dry, in cramp, generally cold and moist - Hiccough is a common symptom of Gastritis - In cramp seldom or never - So very different are the symptoms of the two diseases, that we could scarcely mistake the one for the other -

Autopsic Phenomena. Examinations after death show the inner or mucous coat of the stomach, to be the seat of this disease - It is generally much thickened and red, with gangrenous and eroded, or ulcerated spots -

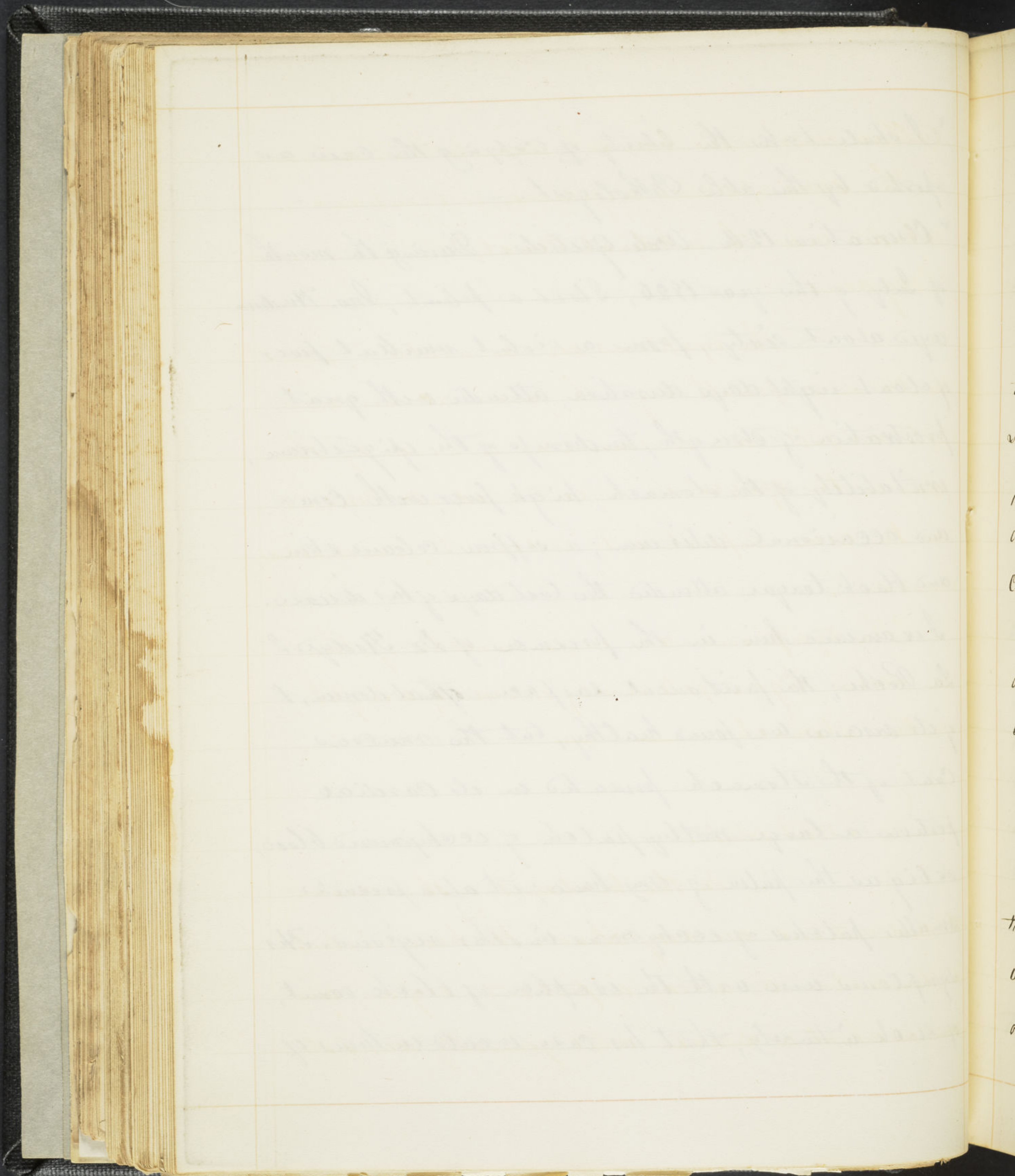
We find in the very valuable inquiries of Dr. Norris into the healthy and diseased appearances of the mucous membrane of the stomach and intestines, an account of the changes in stomach, after death, arising from acute Gastritis -



* I shall take the liberty of copying this case as reported by this able Pathologist. -

† Observation 12th. Acute Gastritis. During the month of July of the year 1826, I lost a patient, Mr. Henderson, aged about sixty, from a violent intermittent fever of about eight days duration, attended with great prostration of strength, tenderness of the epigastrium, irritability of the stomach, high fever, with coma and occasional delirium; a saffron colored skin and black tongue attended the last days of his disease.

I examined him in the presence of Dr. Hodges & La Roche; the peritoneal surface, of the abdomen, & of its viscera we found healthy, but the mucous coat of the stomach presented in its Cardiac portion a large motley patch of ecchymosed blood, as big as the palm of my hand; it also presented smaller patches of ecchymosis in other regions. His symptoms were with the exception of black vomit, of such urgency, that his case would in times of



Yellow fever, have been set down to that disease.

The same patched appearance is sometimes extended into the intestinal Canal."

Prognosis.

The symptoms are favourable, if about the third or fourth day, the pulse becomes more soft and full, and is diminished in frequency; the pain in the epigastric region gradually ceasing, and the urine depositing a sediment, or a diarrhoea comes on.

The symptoms are unfavourable, if there are severe rigors followed by a swee of weight in the stomach. —

Treatment.

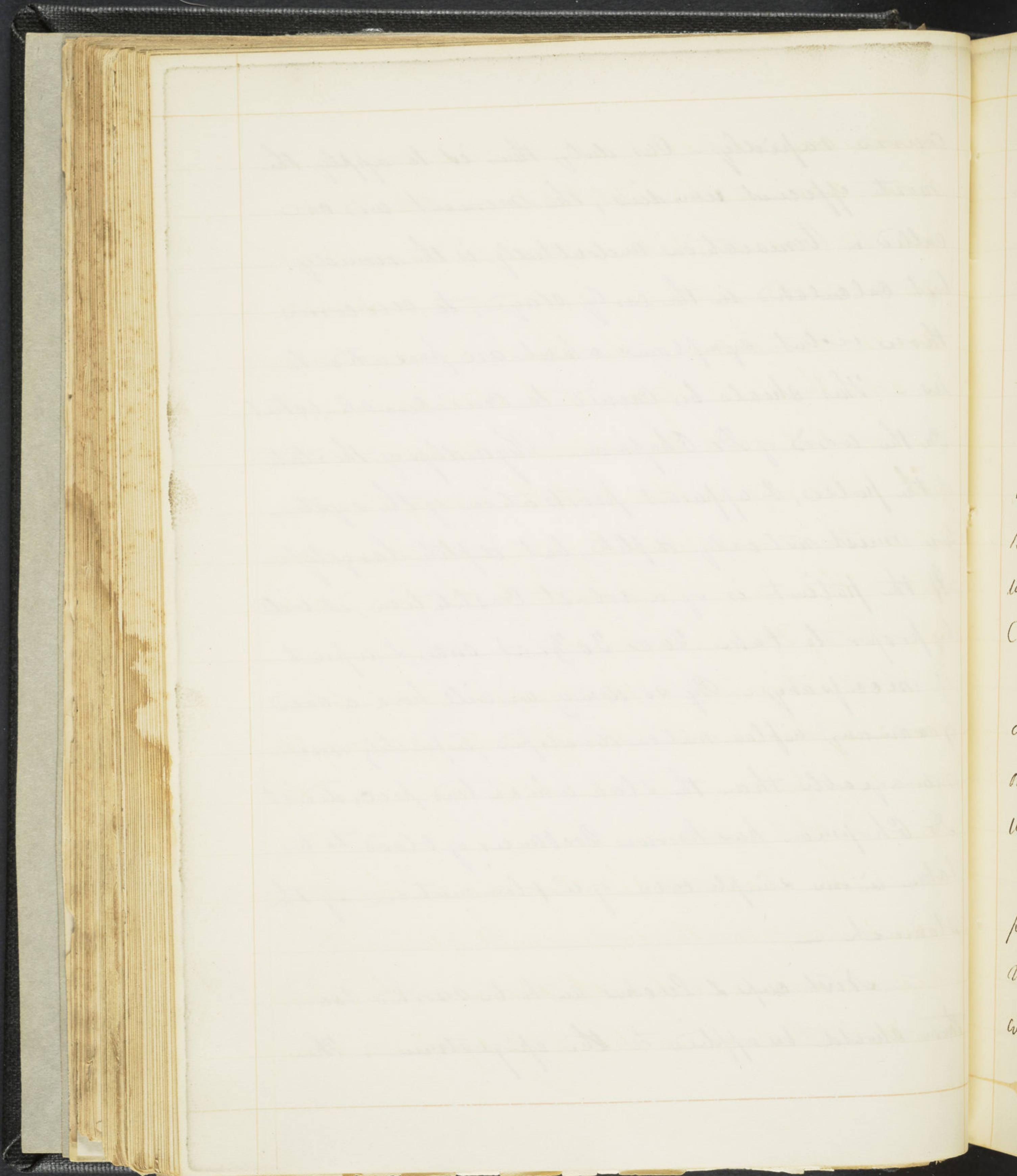
In the treatment of this disease the indications are very clear. We have violent inflammation in a very important organ, and one in which a disease most generally runs its

course rapidly - Our duty, then is to apply the most efficient remedies, the moment we are called in. Venesection undoubtedly is the remedy best calculated in the early stage, to overcome those violent symptoms which are presented to us - This should be carried to considerable extent. In the words of Dr Chapman "Regardless of the state of the pulse, & apparent prostration of the system we must not only deplete, but deplete largely" -

If the patient is of a robust Constitution, it will be proper to take 20 or 30 $\frac{ss}{ss}$ at once, & repeat if necessary - By so doing we will have a case of ordinary inflammation developed, infinitely more manageable than the state which had preceded it.

Dr Chapman has known 200 ounces of blood to be taken in one simple case of inflammation of the Stomach -

Next cups & leeches are to be resorted to - These should be applied to the epigastrium - The

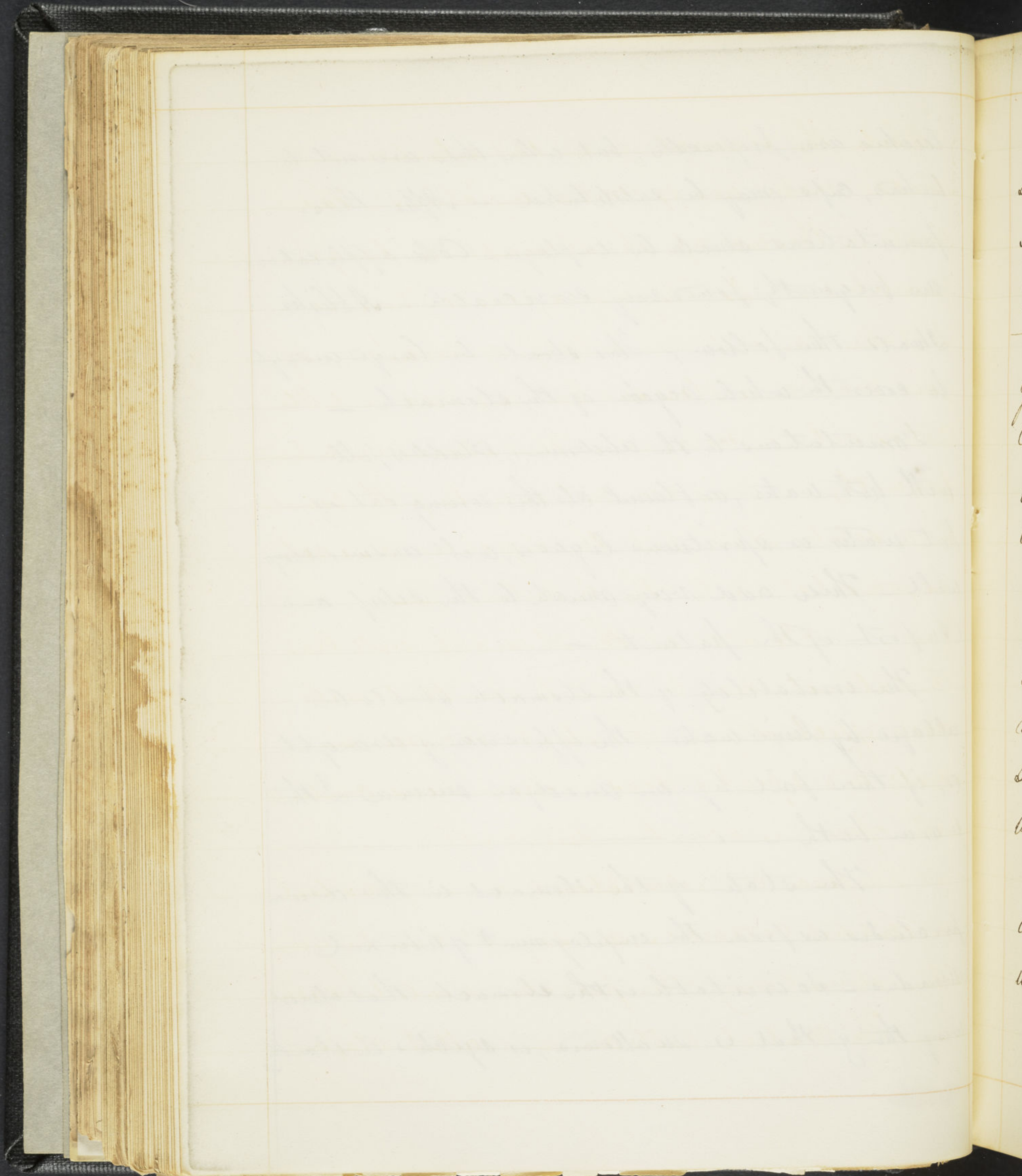


leeches are preferable, but when these are not to be had, cups may be substituted - After these, fomentations should be employed - Cold applications are frequently found very serviceable - A blister should then follow, This should be large enough to cover the whole region of the stomach -

Fomentations to the abdomen, Bladders filled with hot water, or flannel cloths wrung out of hot water or spirituous liquors, will answer very well - These add very much to the relief and comfort of the patient -

The irritability of the stomach should be allayed by lime water, the effervescing draught or, if these fail by an anodyne enema & the warm bath -

The state of the stomach in this disease precludes as from the employment of internal remedies - so irritable is the stomach that almost every thing that is swallowed, is rejected instantly

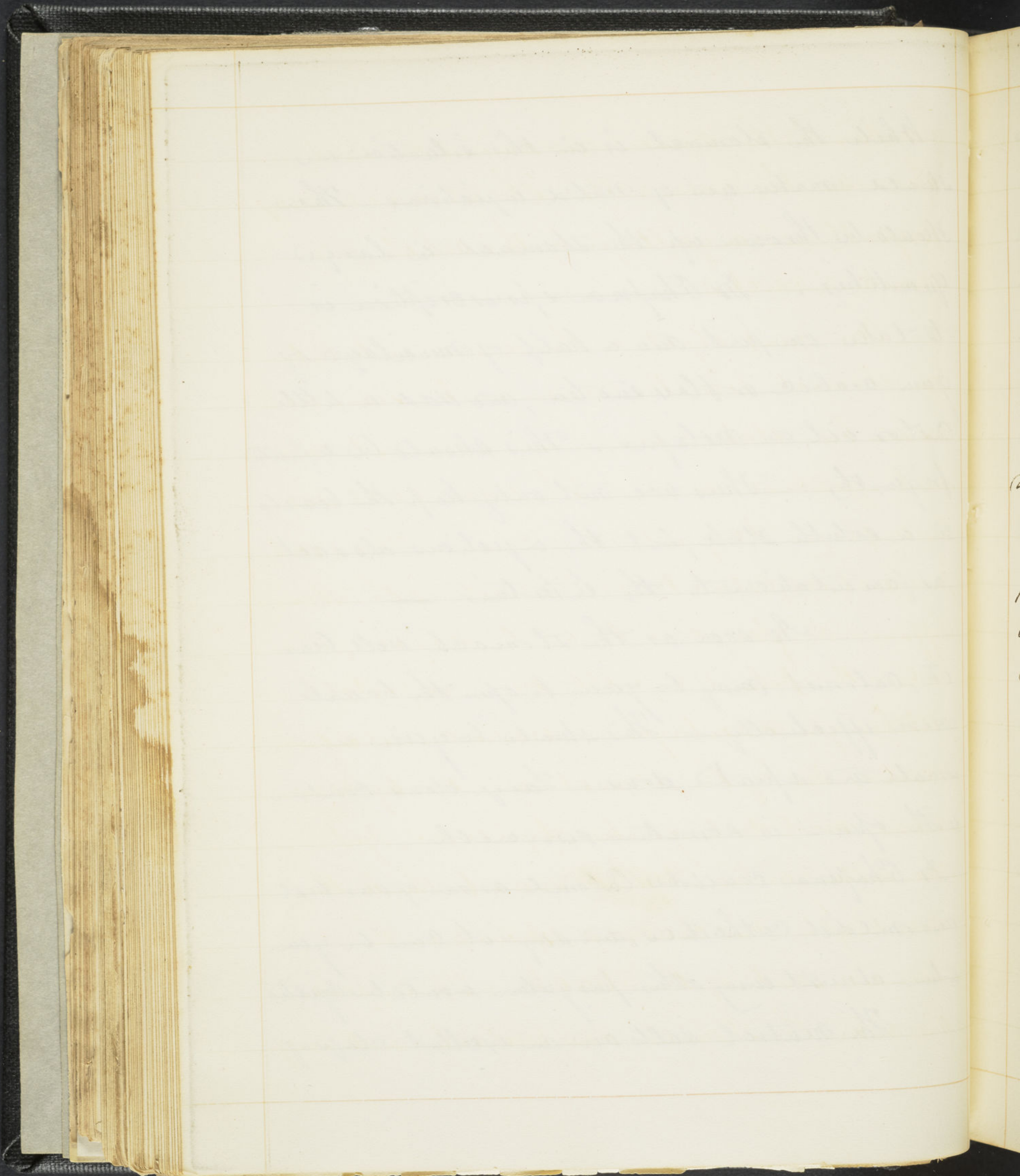


While the stomach is in this situation we should make use of mild injections - These should be thrown up the stomach in large quantities - Dr Chapman's prescription is to take one pint and a half of mucilage of gum arabic or flax seed tea, and add a little Castor oil or molasses - This should be repeated frequently - Thus we not only keep the bowels in a soluble state, but the injections also act as fomentations to the intestines -

As soon as the stomach will bear it, Calomel may be given to open the bowels more effectually - This should be given in small and repeated doses - Large doses combined with opium is sometimes serviceable

Dr Chapman considers Calomel as one of our best and mildest cathartics, and says it can be given when almost every other purgative would be rejected

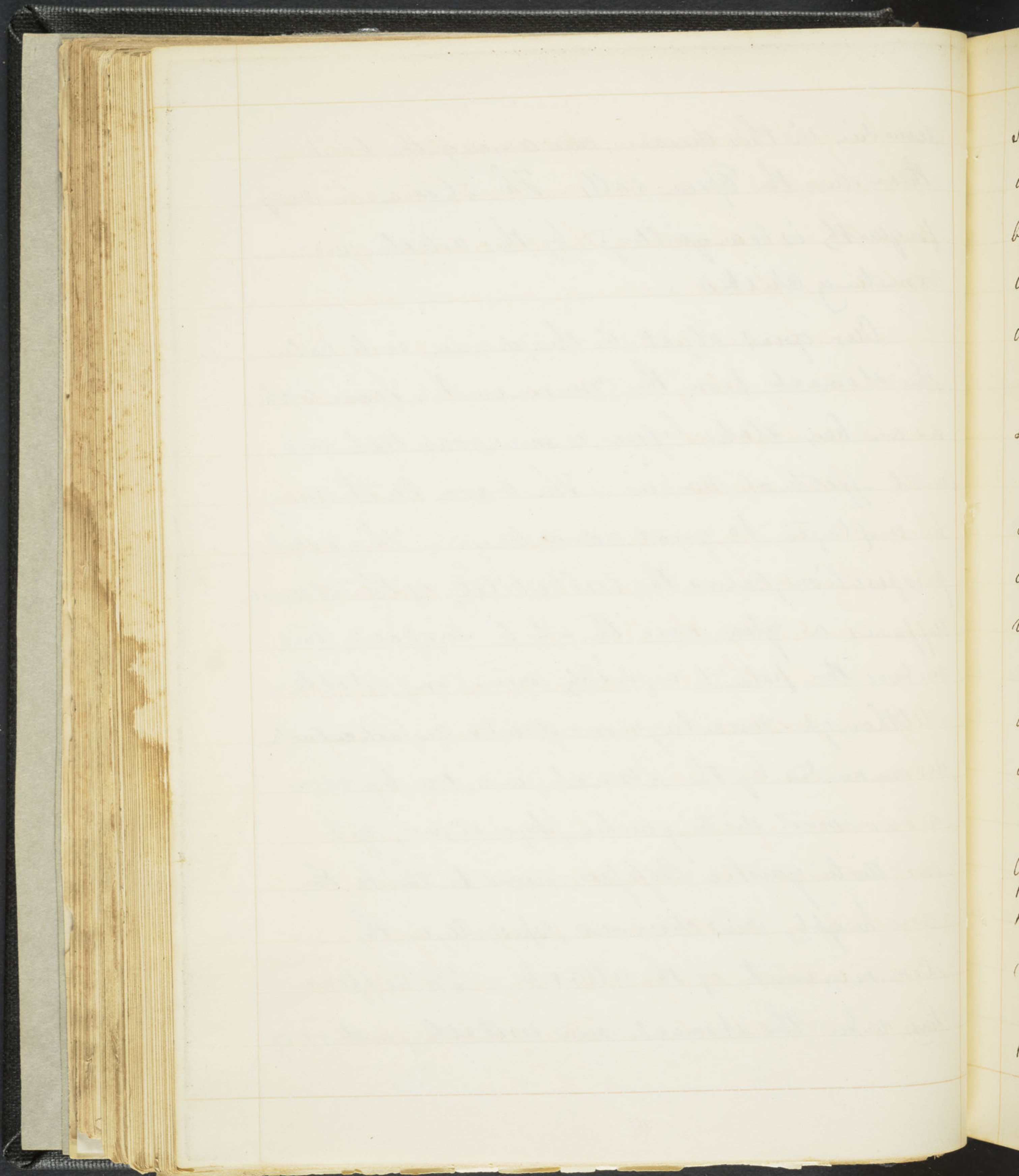
The neutral salts are an excellent class of



remedies in this disease, and among the best of
these are the Opium pills - The stomach very
frequently is tranquillized by this article, and
vomiting checked -

Our great object in this disease is to calm
the stomach from the commencement - Lemon water
as we have stated before, is one of our best and
most effectual remedies - The warm bath may
be employed to great advantage - This excites
perspiration, calms the irritability of the stomach
diffuses a glow over the whole surface, and
renders the patient infinitely more comfortable -

Although mucilaginous drinks are particularly
recommended by the French, and even by some
of our most distinguished physicians, yet
our distinguished Professor seems to think they
are highly mischievous, especially in the
commencement of the attack - He supposes
they render the stomach more irritable, instead of



Shielding it from the acid matter contained
in the stomach - In his own words "Can any one
believe that by spreading the mucilage of gum
arabic or flax seed over an inflamed surface,
any advantage could possibly be derived?"

Instead of deluging the stomach, drinks
should as much as possible be avoided -

The best drinks for allaying irritation of the
Stomach are mint tea, lemon water, and above
all seltzer water - Lemonade particularly
recommended by the French -

As the disease advances, and symptoms
of great prostration, and approaching gangrene
appear, we are chiefly to rely on opium,

Carbonate of ammonia & spirits of turpentine.
Opium among other valuable properties is supposed to
have that of arresting a tendency to gangrene &
mortification - and particularly as related to
Gastritis and enteritis - This failing spirits of

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Surpurgium is deserving of much confidence.

It was recommended in yellow Fever to allay
burning in the early stage, but many practitioners
extended its use to inflammation of the alimentary
canal, & the advantages produced were of the
most striking kind —

Thus I have endeavored to give the
Character, Cause, Symptoms, Treatment &c
of one of the most interesting diseases in
the nosological list, —

It is but a slight and imperfect
sketch, unworthy of the notice of men so
distinguished for their Talent, industry, and
moral worth —

That it may answer the purpose for
which it is intended is the sincere wish
of your unworthy pupil. —

